

**Hawaii Department of Agriculture - Pesticides Branch**  
**4th Quarter Report; EPA Region IX**  
**July - September 2013**

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

**Personnel**

- Interviews for the Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) position in the Registration/Licensing Section took place in September. Applicant Monica Tauyan who is currently working in the HDOA Plant Pest Control Branch as a Pest Control Technician was interviewed and selected. She will start her new position in the Pesticides Branch on October 22, 2013.
- Environmental Health Specialist Steve Russo of the Education/Certification section received recognition for his Sustained Superior Performance Award by the Department of Agriculture. A certificate was issued and signed by HDOA Board Chair, Russell Kokubun.
- The following Environmental Health Specialists received recognition for their years of faithful and loyal service to the people of Hawaii. Derek Shigematsu - 20 years in Education/Certification and Lester Chin - 10 years in Enforcement. Certificate were issued and signed by Neil Abercrombie, Governor of the State of Hawaii.

**Training**

Program staff attended the following training:

Date:	Conference:	Description:	Attendee(s):
July 15 – 18, 2013	PREP Course, Davis, CA		Tom Matsuda, Pesticides Program Manager
July 20 – 25, 2013	50 <sup>th</sup> Annual North American Chemical Residue Workshop and Short Course, St. Pete Beach, FL	Learn new chemical analysis methods & techniques used in residue level analyses of pesticides, and environmental contaminants	Joey Chen, PhD Chemist, CAL
August 5 – 8, 2013	2013 National Pesticide Applicator Certification and Training Workshop, St. Paul, MN	Learn methods to increase the levels of safety, competency, and security for pesticide applicators and workers. Discuss educational and regulatory tools and projects, new compliance issues and exchange information.	Steve Russo, EHS, Education/Certification
September 10-12, 2013	PREP: Senior Executive Laboratory Management Course, Davis, CA	Continuing ed courses on Federal Law, examination process, generating testing materials, recert. info, inter and intra agency collaboration and documenting program accomplishments	Joey Chen, PhD Chemist, CAL

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Computer Data System**

The Pesticides Branch is looking into the development of an Integrated Pesticides Information System to improve workflow, accuracy and availability of information. Currently data for the Pesticides Branch is not integrated. The Certification/Education section uses a dBase IV application that does not work on Windows 7. It also does not capture the essential data which requires staff to waste man hours responding to calls from applicators as to their credits and classes taken. The Enforcement Branch must re-enter data collected out in the field. The Registration section utilized a Microsoft Access database. Reporting the sales of Restricted Use Pesticides by dealers are submitted on paper or excel spreadsheets is currently manually entered into a spreadsheet. Discussions are taking place with the HDOA IT staff, Pesticides Branch staff and a State vendor

## **Registration/Licensing**

### **Licensing**

A total of 183 licenses for new products were processed, with fees collected totaling \$ 60,390. There were no license renewals.

### **Special Local Needs (Section 24c)**

1 SLN was issued for **Movento** in existing koa plantations for control of Acacia psyllid. An Endangered Species Section 7 informal consultation was submitted to Fish & Wildlife Service to mitigate any concerns with potential for effect on non-targets.

### **Section 18 Emergency Exemption**

None.

### **Experimental Use Permits (EUP)**

None.

## **Kauai County Council Bill 2491**

- On July 31st, on behalf of HDOA Board Chair, Tom Matsuda presented testimony on this bill to clarify that the amount of RUPs provided by the pesticides branch were of RUP sold and not used as was stated in the bill. Councilman Hoosier requested the presence of pesticide branch staff for a later meeting.
- On August 5<sup>th</sup>, Tom Matsuda, Christina Bauske and Glenn Sahara attending a Kauai County Council hearing to answer questions pertaining to the use of RUPs, Environmental Use Permits and inspection protocols.
- As of Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, the Kauai County Council passed by a vote of 6 -1 to approve Bill 2491 Draft 2 and send it to Mayor Carvalho for his signature. The Mayor has until October 31<sup>st</sup> to either sign into law, veto or let the bill pass without his signature. Update: Mayor vetoed bill. However there enough County Council votes (5-2) to override his veto. Bill 2491 takes effect in 9 months.

## **Hawaii Island Council Bill 113**

- Bill 113 has passed Hawaii County Council committee 1<sup>st</sup> reading and goes to the full Council for a vote. Update: Hawaii County Council passed bill 6-3. Mayor Kenoi signed bill into law.
- This bill calls for the prohibition of open air cultivation, propagation, development, or testing of genetically engineered crops and plants is intended to prevent the transfer and uncontrolled spread of genetically engineered organisms on to private property, public lands, and waterways.
- Allows current GMO growers of papaya and feed corn to continue production but they must register farm locations, pay an annual fee and report all pesticide use.
- No further expansion of planted fields once the bill has passed.
- Restricts research type of GMO testing to covered greenhouses.
- \$1,000 fine for each separate violation.

## **Chemical Analysis Laboratory (CAL)**

A total of 6 tests were run for 3 samples pertaining to 1 enforcement cases this quarter. All of these samples were finished by the Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS). All other samples including 1 batch EPA check sample, which should be done by the Liquid Chromatography/Mass Spectrometer (LC/MS) were not run due to the vacuum pumps for the LC/MS not working. These pumps were sent out to a mainland company for repair. Currently, there is a dispute in the way the

work completed by the mainland company exceeded authorized spending limits and until that issue is resolved the LC/MS remains inoperable.

The Lab Quality Assurance Manual was finished and submitted to EPA Region 9 for comment. Laboratory QA SOPs are still under review and expected to be submitted to EPA Region 9 by the end of July.

### **Work plans:**

#### **Applicator Certification and Training Work plan:**

During the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, a total of 7 statewide examination sessions were held. One hundred fifteen (115) examinees were tested in Private applicator or Commercial applicator categories. Out of these examinations, 27 individuals became newly certified applicators and another 33 individuals were re-certified in their appropriate work profession categories.

Fourteen (14) certified applicators collectively accumulated 52 recertification credits by taking quizzes. Twenty-two (15) training classes were held and attended by 286 certified applicators. These attendees collectively received 161 recertification credits

#### **Endangered Species Protection Work plan:**

##### **Enforcement Work plan:**

Statistical numbers will be reported in the 5700-33H Form. As mentioned, we are behind in reviewing case jackets. Update: I will try to get you a report by the end of December.

#### **Hawaii Island**

- C-H13-13 Complaint made from one coffee farm grower that neighboring coffee farmer is applying a pesticide not approved for use on coffee plants. Complainant said that there is an odor not associated with Botanigard spray that is affecting her health (burning eyes). Plant samples were taken as a base sample. Awaiting next spray by neighboring coffee farm to obtain additional leaf samples to determine what is actually being applied.
- EHS Chris Gerken noted while conducting field surveillance, an applicator was observed spraying a substance as a pre-plant soil application. A follow up inspection was conducted with the owner of the farm. It was determined that Lorsban 75 WG was the pre-plant pesticide being applied by the applicator who spoke only Chinese. Noted during the inspection were suspected violations of:
  - improper PPE
  - no compliance with WPS; 4 employees
  - owner used a measuring cup to determine weight of Lorsban to use

#### **Oahu**

- Inspectors conducted a follow up on large amounts RUP Epi-Mek 0.15EC purchased by a certified applicator Pau Cun Chi. Inspectors note that the application of this pesticide is being made by non-certified applicators growing basil.

#### **Kauai**

- Complaints were made by individuals claiming exposure to pesticide drift or improper application by applicator
  - Complainant L. Schneider claims to have been exposed while driving near corn field, experiencing eyes burning, and skin irritation, turned around and went to nearby ocean to rinse off residue. Schneider provided photos of spray equipment.

- Complainant D. Cabebe called citing exposure to pesticides. Corn company was spraying 2 separate fields at the time of the incident and sampling was done for paraquat and spinetoram. Sample results reported no detect for paraquat or spinetoram.
- Anonymous complaint against County Park workers applying fertilizer with 2,4-D inappropriately. The use was documented and several suspected violations were noted.

#### Maui

- A spray drift complainant received from resident, living downwind of sugar cane field in Paia, Maui. Swab sample detected herbicide residue. Case review is pending. Same individual filed a complainant during the previous year (7/27/2011). And swab sample taken from this complaint detected traces of 2,4D, Dicamba, Ametryn, Diuron, Hexazinone and Pendimethalin residue.
- One complaint filed with attestations from three residents living in Kauai Bay view Subdivision, in Paia. Swab samples were taken from one of the complainant's residence and are pending lab analysis. Update: Lab samples indicate residue of 2,4D, Dicamba, Ametryn, Diuron, Hexazinone and Pendimethalin. Case review is pending.

#### **Worker Safety Program Work plan:**

One (1) Worker Protection Standard training session was conducted with six (6) employees at Kihei Garden & Landscaping. WPS consultations were provided to: 1) Jiangun Zhang to discuss owner's responsibilities and requirements for handler and Ag worker training. Compliance materials were also provided. 2) LBD Coffee dba Kauai Cigar's Assistant Manager, Irrigation/Crop Nutrition Supervisor and Orchard Operations Manager to discuss training requirements for new workers.

Training on pesticides safety was also provided to these farms or groups; Mae's Wonder Garden, Hawaii County Health & Safety Division, total of 126 individuals attended the trainings.

#### **Other presentations/training provided to:**

- Farmer Resource Workshops were presented on Oahu and Kauai. Total of 118 attendees.
- Structural Pest Control for farmers – 30 beginning farmers at Pacific Gateway Center.
- Rodent Control for farms - Leeward Community College – 20 attendees.

#### **Water Quality Protection Program Work plan:**

There were two (2) new active ingredients (listed below) still under review and 2 new active ingredients completed.

Pyroxasulfone (Valent) - requires full groundwater review. Working to prepare purchase order to have Dr. Ray review with other actives.

fluxapyroxad (BASF) - requires full groundwater review. Working to prepare purchase order to have Dr. Ray review with other actives.

prothioconazole (Bayer) - still under review

penflufen (Bayer) - still under review.

#### **Integrated Pest Management:**

- Booklet. Working on 2<sup>nd</sup> draft and development of a story line utilizing 2 insects named Katy Did and Keoki Doo, defining pests and pesticides. Also talking about EPA, signal words and options of utilizing IPM.

- IPM Pilot Program at Ala Wai Elem School in Honolulu. Have had a series of meetings with DOE facilities staff and private PCO company on components of IPM outreach to school administrators, teachers, children, parents, custodial and cafeteria staff. Education staff help with review of PCO company's outreach training materials.

**WPS PowerPoint:**

- WPS training. Education staff has completed text and voice over for a WPS power point slideshow and is addressing incorporating short 2 minute videos on such topics as hand washing, proper care of spray equipment, care of PPE etc. These videos would be on a pop up menu that viewers could select prior to viewing the WPS power point slideshow.